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Council of Chairs Meeting, February 21, 2013

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COUNCIL OF CHAIRS, 2012-13

Minutes of the Meeting on February 21, 2013, 3:30 p.m.
Room 349, Drinko Library (plus connections to SC and SOP)

1. Attendance:

Chairs/Division Heads: Mike Castellani (CHM), Harlan Smith (FIN/ECN), Jeff Archambault (ACC/LE), Burnis Morris (SOJMC), Allen Stern (CITE), Dan Holbrook (HST), Brian Morgan (IST), David Mallory (BSC), Marty Laubach (SOC/ANT), Allyson Goodman (SOJMC), Steven Mewaldt (PSY), David Castleberry (Music/Theatre), Dru Bora (CJC), Josh Hagen (GEO), Byron Clercx (ART), Fred Mader (MGT/MKT/MIS), Marybeth Beller (PSC), Kelli Williams (DTS), Cam Brammer (CMM), Venkat Gudivada (CS), John Schloss (SOP), Paula Lucas (SOE), Clay McNearney (RST), Mike Cunningham (LS/ATE), Bob Rubenstein (COUN), Lisa Heaton (Elementary and Secondary Ed), Betsy Dulin (ENGR), Karen McNealey (CD), Gary McIlvain (COHP)

Guests: Gayle Ormiston (AA), Corley Dennison (AA), Wael Zatar (CITE), David Pittenger (COLA), Michael Prewitt (COHP), Robert Bookwalter (COE), Jackie Agesa (COB), Margie McInerney (COB), Allison Carey (ENG, for Jane Hill), David Trowbridge (HST), Deanna Mader (COB)

2. Mike Castellani called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

3. Gayle Ormiston spoke on the university's budget situation

- A. Handouts were provided to help frame the discussion and to highlight the severity of the problem MU faces.
- B. The FY2014 proposed budget reduction, when Financial Aid is made exempt, totals 8.94% of state appropriations, or roughly \$4.86 million.
- C. No final decisions have been made yet RE the budget: the WV State Legislative Session is just getting underway, and while the 8.94% cut has been discussed, nothing has been finalized.
- D. Increasing tuition is not the answer. First, State Code places a 5% cap on the annual increase in tuition and fees. Second, a huge percentage of the MU student body is on financial aid. Taking out student loans is often part of the financial aid package. Higher tuition could require more money taken out in loans, which could impact the default rate over time.
- E. One key element of the MU approach to managing these potential cuts has been "restructuring." Restructuring efforts to date, combined with the 5% Academic Affairs hold-back on operating budgets at the start of this fiscal year, have yielded roughly \$1 million in savings. The Provost welcomes suggestions on other restructuring possibilities, and on other means of cutting costs in response to the proposed budget cuts.
- F. Discussion: (1) Will there be further cuts in 2014-15 (FY2015)? Possibly. If such cuts materialize, will personnel cuts be needed? Likely. To do this, if necessary, the following avenues will be explored: Reassigned time is the first issue AA will examine; Faculty positions may be combined; Some positions that open up due to resignations or retirements would likely not be filled; Some open positions may be reallocated across the university and/or changed. (2) the Provost would like input from the Chairs (through their Deans), and from

the Deans directly, before finalizing an additional restructuring plans for FY2014. (3) Several Chairs raised the issue of FYS and the demands it places on the fulltime tenured and tenure-track faculty. (4) A question concerning the future impact of "Outcomes Based Funding" on the MU budget was raised. Gayle noted that Outcomes Based Funding will arrive at some point in the future, but that the university is not yet sure of what that means in terms of funding and how to respond. (5) A question was raised about the extent to which revenue inflows from the INTO program can help. At this point, the university is not sure, since INTO is just now ramping up to begin this fall. (6) Several questions were raised about some of the appropriations statistics presented on the handouts. Gayle promised to research the issues raised and get back to the Council with clarification.

G. The Provost's presentation ended at 4:20 p.m.

4. Follow-up meeting among Council of Chairs members: Several Chairs suggested that the Council prepare a memo to the Provost requesting more information, and identifying points that need to be clarified, so that the Council can participate in the cost-cutting discussion in light of all available information concerning the costs and benefits of specific programs. The Council agreed to work on this document and finalize it at our March meeting.